



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Itsuko SAKAI et al.)
)
Serial No.: 09/877,145) Group Art Unit:
)
Filed: June 11, 2001) Examiner:

For: PLASMA PROCESSING METHOD

**Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231**

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), applicant brings to the Examiner's attention the documents listed on attached Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are attached. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the documents listed on attached Form PTO-1449 and indicate that they were considered by making an appropriate notation on this form.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the above-referenced application.

The following is a concise statement of relevance of the non-English language documents

1. Japanese Patent Kokai Publication No. 5-40031 - The relevance of this document is discussed in the present application at page 8, lines 6-23. An English abstract is also provided.

2. Japanese Patent Kokoku Publication No. 7-36886 - The relevance of this document is discussed in the present application at page 7, line 22 to page 8, line 6. An English abstract of corresponding laid-open no. 6-327924 is also provided.

3. Japanese Patent No. 2,854,240 - The relevance of this document in the present application at page 7, line 22 to page 8, line 6. An English abstract of corresponding laid-open application no. 7-299321 is also provided

4. Japanese patent Kokai Publication No. 9-251981 - discloses a semiconductor device manufacturing apparatus with a gas recirculation system. The relevance of this document is also discussed in the present application beginning at page 3, line 19. An English abstract is also provided

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicant determines that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicant reserves the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

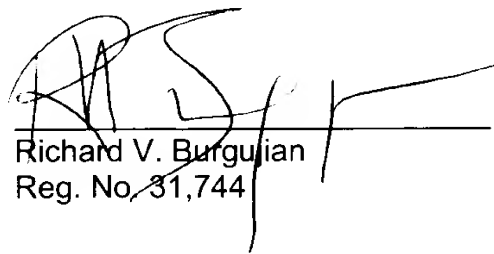
Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please
charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

By:


Richard V. Burgulian
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Dated: September 5, 2001

Enclosures
RVB/FPD/bl

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